United Nations S/2000/1256

# Security Council

Distr.: General
29 December 2000

Original: English

## Letter dated 29 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith a statement issued to the press with regard to the fighting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Joseph W. **Mutaboba**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-81558 (E) 291200

**Annex**

**Annex to the letter dated 29 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

Press statement

1. It will be recalled that back in October, 2000, Rwanda Government expressed serious concern on massive violations of the Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement by the combined forces of FAC, ex-FAR, Interahamwe, FDD and MAI MAI supported by Zimbabwe and Namibia. This was when forces attacked and captured some RCD positions along Tanganyika Sector in Katanga Province, including KONTAULA, KASASAIKA, MUSA, BALANGA, MUTOTO MOJA, KYERUZI, MURUNGUSHA as well as PEPA town and airport. They also bombed MOBA town and port causing damage and civilian casualties. This act by Kabila and his allies was the most blatant violation of the Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement.

2. It should be recalled too that earlier, when RPA and RCD forces had withdrawn from some of their positions in line with the Lusaka Peace Agreement, the FAC, Interahamwe and allied forces seized the opportunity to occupy them. These included: KITANDA, KIKAMBI, KONKA, BOYA, KAHOLE and CYANYA in complete violation of the Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement. In fact in Kasai 200 innocent civilians were massacred by FAC and Interahamwe forces after our withdraw.

3. When the attacks against our forces in Tanganyika commenced MONUC was informed and the violations exposed to the international community. It was therefore in self-defense that RPA counter attacked and re-took Pepa and other positions including Pweto, which was used by FAC as well as Interahamwe forces to maintain and sustain the offence. The Kabila forces were dislodged and fled in disarray into North-eastern Zambia. Prisoners of war captured included ex-FAR, Interahamwe, FDD and FAC.

4. It is regrettable that despite a number of the Security Council Resolutions concerning armed groups and illegal arms trafficking in our region, no efforts have been made by the United Nations to disarm ex-FAR, Interahamwe and other allied forces which have poured into Zambia. To make things worse, large numbers of the fugitives have managed to cross back into the DRC to re-organise and continue the war and destabilisation of the region.

5. The Government of Rwanda urges the United Nations once again to play its part. Had MONUC been in place, Pepa or Pweto fighting would not have erupted. MONUC forces must be deployed to oversee smooth withdraw of troops in accordance with the Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement and Kampala Disengagement Plan and the UN Resolutions. The Rwanda Government reiterates its readiness to withdraw her forces if UN deploys a full contingent of the observers as it undertook to do last February.

6. The Government of Rwanda would like to reiterate its commitment to the Lusaka peace process and the Kampala disengagement plan.